Seminar on Examining the 2016 Election: Inequality, Populism and Voting
POL 395 - Fall, 2017 - Friday, 2pm-4:30pm - GCASL - room 361
SYLLABUS - October 1, 2017

Professor Jonathan Nagler Fall, 2017
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This course considers the relationship between economics, and the rise in economic inequality, and politics. We start by considering the impact of economic performance on election outcomes. And we then examine how that impact is affected by the rise of economic inequality. To do this we consider how economic inequality has risen over time, and how the economic fortunes of different groups have diverged. We consider the difference in opinions on public policy between the rich and poor, and compare the voting behavior of the rich and poor. Finally, we examine the responsiveness of the political system to different income groups. The goal of the course is to make students understand how heavily elections are influenced by economic outcomes, and understand how political behavior varies across different income groups.

The best way to contact me is via email (jonathan.nagler@nyu.edu). Office hours this semester are TBA.

Course Assignments (SUBJECT TO CHANGE - THIS IS A DRAFT SYLLABUS!):

1. Class participation [including written component] (15%).
2. Final Exam (15%)
3. Short Written Assignments (20%)
4. Final Paper (50%)

Other than the texts mentioned below, readings will be provided online via NYU-CLASSES, or you may be instructed to download journal articles from sources NYU has access to.

There are several assigned texts:


The order of topics listed below could change a little. You need to keep up with the schedule as announced in class, and/or via email and/or NYU-CLASSES!
1. Week 1 (Sep 8) - Review Basic Facts of Income, Inequality, Participation

- **Read:** Chapter 1 of Bartels, *Gilded Age*.

2. Week 2 (Sep 15) - More on Facts of Inequality - lets go into this in some depth, how many people are in middle class, etc. How do we know people are economically hurting? Some readings on ACA and what it actually did.

- **Read:** Alvaredo, Atkinson, Piketty, and Saize, "The Top 1 Percent in International and Historical Perspective", *JEP*, 2013
- **Read:** Hacker and Pierson *Winner Take All* Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

3. Week 3 (Sep 22) - Populism, and do Voters ignore the Economy and Vote Cultural Issues? [This is NOT retrospective voting - rather it is ‘class voting’.]

- Populism article from Bonikowski, Bart and Noam Gidron, 2016, “Multiple Traditions in Populism Research: Toward a Theoretical Synthesis”, in *Comparative Politics Newsletter*, Matt Golder and Sona N. Golder (eds), pgs 7-14.
- Frank, *What’s the Matter with Kansas*, Chapters 0 (intro), 1,3, 5, and 6.

4. Week 4 (Sep 29) - Retrospective Voting and Economic Voting: We will briefly look at the ‘forecasting’ literature to see how political scientists use the state of the economy to predict and/or ‘explain’ election outcomes.

- *PS* 2016 Presidential Forecasting Article
  - Campbell, Introduction
  - Abramowit, “Time for a Change”
  - Erikson and Wlezien, “Forecasting the Presidential Vote with Leading Economic Indicators and the Polls”
  - Lockerbie, “Economic Pessimism and Political Punishment”
- Cotrell, Herron, and Westwood, Evaluating Donald Trumps “Allegations of Voter Fraud in the 2016 Presidential Election”, Just read the section on ‘Rationalizing the 2016 Presidential Election’
5. Week 5 (October 6) We will look at the role of identity in voting.

- **PAPER TOPIC PROPOSAL DUE**
- Schaffner, “Understanding White Polarization in the 2016 Vote for President: The Sobering Role of Racism and Sexism,” forthcoming *PSQ*

6. Week 6 (October 13)

- **Jan Runs Class!**
- Data Week – we look at voting in US2016 and over time from Exit-Polls, NES, CCES, SMaPP2016, etc.
- **Data:** Voting voter Time by Different Income Groups using:
  (a) Exit Polls
  (b) NES
  (c) CCES

7. Week 7 (Oct 20) - Identity and Groups

- Achen and Bartels, *Democracy for Realists*, Chapter 8, “The Very Basis of Reasons: Groups, Social Identities, and Political Psychology”
- Gilens, *What Americans Think about Welfare*, selected chapters.
- **TBA:** Recent article by Levine, et-al. *Research and Politics*, response to race when evaluating policy.

8. Week 8 (Oct 27) - Issue Voting

- Lenz, *TBA*, (article or 1-3 book chapters)
- Leighley and Nagler, selected chapters (demographics of turnout)

9. Week 9 (Nov 3) - Information

- **TBA:**
  - Leighley and Nagler, selected chapters (perceived differences between candidates and turnout).
10. Week 10 (Nov 10) - Media and Social Media
   • TBA!!!, “Influence of Fox News”
   • TBA!!!, Social Media
   • TBA!!!, “Fake News”

11. Week 11 (Nov 17) - Money in Elections
   • Rules of Campaign Giving
   • Publicly Available Data
   • Bonica, et-al, “Mapping the Ideological Landscape” (OR, other Bonica)

12. Week 12 (Nov 24) - Thanksgiving

13. Week 13 (Dec 1) - Everyone Reads!! Students will read from different books about the 2016 election, or beyond. Some suggested readings are below.
   • Allen and Parnes, Shattered: Inside Hillary Clinton’s Doomed Campaign
   • Clinton, Hillary, What Happened
   • Green, Joshua, Devil’s Bargain: Steve Bannon, Donald Trump, and the Storming of the Presidency
   • Cramer, Katherine, The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker
   • Hochschild, Arlie Russel, Strangers in their own Land
   • Stiglitz, Joseph, The Price of Inequality: How Today’s Divided Society Endangers Our Future

14. Week 14 (Dec 8) - Lightning Talks
   • Everyone presents a distilled version of their paper - no more than 6 slides, no more than 6 minutes!!

15. Week 15 (Dec 15) - Where We are Now
   • Reading: TBA, short selection
   • SHORT FINAL EXAM!! - 30 minutes